

June 20, 1945

Dr. Van R. Potter
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Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Van;

Thanks for your letter of June 18. I'll cheer you on wholeheartedly from afar in your search into the other possibilities. I must confess that I still remain pessimistic. It seems to me unlikely that a department would create a vacancy sufficiently attractive and the only possibility remains if one happens already to exist which I could fill and for which I would be acceptable. I guess that after all this place is unique because it did create a position for me only on the basis of my research and they thought it was of sufficiently broad interest to warrant support at the medical school. In fact when I came here I wasn't supposed to do much if any teaching and it was only on my insistence that I am lecturing.

With respect to the cancer funds I think I would like to take you up on your kind offer and ask you to write a preliminary exploratory letter first telling them I would be interested in getting support etc. I hate to impose on you like this but since I am in a bacteriology department and have never published on cancer per se it seems that we would have a greater chance of success if a person in thier field introduced them to the possibilities of my research program for the cancer problem. Your recent note in Science which I had a chance to read carefully will undoubtedly be of some assistance in that connection.

I don't think that anything specific need be mentioned in your letter but that outside support would enable me to expand my program particularly in those directions which would be of interest to the cancer problem. And you might mention that I would be more than willing to consult with and cooperate with cancer experts in ~~the~~ working out the details of the program. Aside from the primary problem of the mechanism of enzyme synthesis and maintenance and the competition between the various enzymes within the cell there are several obvious things one might like to know as for example the effect of carcinogens on enzyme synthesis etc.

If you have any other ideas on the procedure to be followed don't hesitate to let me know. I am enclosing a copy of the letter I sent to Dr. Rusch just so that you will have the whole story and it might conceivably be of use to you in future negotiations.

By the way, if you are through with the galley proof I sent I would like to have it back. I am in no rush for it, but it is the only copy I have and I don't know when I'll receive reprints of that article.

With kind personal regards and many thanks,

Sincerely yours,